

VI.2 Elements for a Public Summary

/.../ 1 mg/ml oral solution

VI.2.1 Overview of disease epidemiology

Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a chronic (ongoing) mental illness that commonly manifests with difficulties distinguishing between reality and imagination. Common symptoms include disorganised thinking and speech, hallucinations (hearing or seeing things that are not there), suspiciousness, false beliefs (delusion) and abnormal social behaviour. Schizophrenia affects approximately 0.7% of adults, and is more prevalent among men. Onset is common during young adulthood in males and approximately 5 years later in women. Schizophrenia occurs across the globe, but incidence rates vary significantly between countries.

Genetic factors such as a family history of schizophrenia may play a role in the development of the disease; higher parental age, birth complications, maternal infections during pregnancy and cannabis use are other risks discussed in the medical literature.

Treatment usually comprises a combination of psychosocial interventions and pharmaceutical therapy, with antipsychotics as first line treatment. With appropriate treatment, most cases of schizophrenia can be adequately managed. Schizophrenia is generally not progressive.

Bipolar I disorder (manic episodes)

Bipolar I disorder (BPI) is a mental illness characterised by alternating periods of normal or depressed mood, and abnormally elevated or irritable mood with heightened activity (manic episodes). During manic episodes, patients may need less sleep, are highly talkative, have delusions of grandeur, flight of ideas and are easily distractible. BPI affects both genders equally and usually develops around the age of 21 years on average, but can occur at any stage of life. Globally, 0.6% of the population are affected by BPI, with incidence increasing in recent years. Genetic, environmental and biochemical factors, as well as personality traits are thought contribute to its manifestation.

Both psychological and pharmaceutical therapies are employed. Manic episodes are commonly treated with antipsychotics, with the exact drug dependent on the type of the episode. Patients with BPI may also receive mood stabilisers to manage other phases or specific symptoms of their disease.

VI.2.2 Summary of treatment benefits

/.../ contains the active substance aripiprazole and belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotics.

It is used to treat adults and adolescents aged 15 years and older who suffer from a disease characterised by symptoms such as hearing, seeing or sensing things which are not there, suspiciousness, mistaken beliefs, incoherent speech and behaviour and emotional flatness. People with this condition may also feel depressed, guilty, anxious or tense.

/.../ is used to treat adults and adolescents aged 13 years and older who suffer from a condition with symptoms such as feeling "high", having excessive amounts of energy, needing much less sleep than usual, talking very quickly with racing ideas and sometimes severe irritability. In adults it also prevents this condition from returning in patients who have responded to the treatment with /.../.

VI.2.3 Unknowns relating to treatment benefits

None identified.

VI.2.4 Summary of safety concerns

Important identified risks

Risk	What is known	Preventability
<p>Movement disorders (Extrapyramidal syndrome (EPS), including tardive dyskinesia)</p>	<p>In clinical trials, there were uncommon reports of abnormal involuntary movements (dyskinesia) in patients receiving aripiprazole. These symptoms can worsen over time or even only become apparent after treatment has been stopped.</p> <p>An inability to sit still (akathisia) and tremors (parkinsonism) were observed clinical trials of aripiprazole in paediatric patients.</p> <p>Extrapyramidal symptoms of varying severity, including tremor, high or low muscle tension, have been observed in neonates whose mothers had used antipsychotics (including aripiprazole) during the third trimester of pregnancy. Consequently, newborns should be monitored carefully.</p>	<p>Tell your doctor if you develop unusual movement disorders while receiving /.../ they may decrease your dose or even discontinue treatment altogether. They may also choose to monitor your symptoms more closely.</p> <p>Movement disorders can also develop after therapy has been stopped. Tell your doctor if you develop abnormal muscle or movement symptoms; they will advise you on the best course of action.</p> <p>If you experience any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet.</p>
<p>Severe nerve disorder due to certain drugs (Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS))</p>	<p>Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) is a potentially fatal symptom complex associated with antipsychotic medicinal products, including rare cases during treatment with aripiprazole.</p> <p>Symptoms of NMS are: high fever (hyperpyrexia), stiff muscles, altered mental status and evidence of autonomic instability (irregular pulse or blood pressure, fast heartbeat, sweating and abnormal heart rhythm). Other symptoms may include rhabdomyolysis (a serious condition resulting from the breakdown of</p>	<p>Tell your doctor immediately if you suffer from muscle stiffness or inflexibility with high fever, sweating, altered mental status, or very rapid or irregular heartbeat.</p> <p>If a patient develops signs and symptoms indicative of NMS, or presents with unexplained high fever without additional clinical manifestations of NMS, all antipsychotic medicinal products, including aripiprazole, must be discontinued.</p>

	muscle tissue), and acute kidney failure.	
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Potential risks

Risk	What is known (Including reason why it is considered a potential risk)
Epileptic fits (Seizures)	Uncommon cases of seizure were reported during treatment with aripiprazole in clinical trials. Therefore, aripiprazole should be used with caution in patients who have a history of seizure disorder or have conditions associated with seizures.
High blood sugar or diabetes (Hyperglycaemia/diabetes)	<p>High blood sugar (hyperglycaemia), in some cases associated with severe complications or fatality, has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotic agents, including aripiprazole. Patients with obesity and a family history of diabetes are at increased risk of severe complications. The frequency for these events to occur cannot be estimated from the available data.</p> <p>However, no significant differences in the incidence rates of hyperglycaemia-related adverse reactions (including diabetes) or laboratory values between aripiprazole and placebo were identified in clinical studies.</p>
Suicidal thoughts and behaviours (Suicide-related events)	Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempt and suicide have been observed since the product has been marketed. The frequency of these events is unknown. Immediately talk to your doctor if you have thoughts or feelings about harming yourself; these thoughts may be caused by the drug.
Low blood pressure when getting up (Orthostatic hypotension)	Sudden changes in blood pressure that can lead to feeling dizzy, especially when getting up from a lying or sitting position, have occurred in up to 1 in 100 people treated with aripiprazole have been observed
Dysbalance in blood fat levels (Dyslipidaemia)	<p>In a pooled analysis on lipid parameters from placebo-controlled clinical trials in adults, aripiprazole has not been shown to induce clinically relevant alterations in levels of total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL and LDL.</p> <p>However, an impact of aripiprazole on blood fat levels cannot be fully excluded.</p>

Missing information

Risk	What is known
Safety in pregnancy and lactation	<p>There are no adequate and well-controlled trials of aripiprazole in pregnant women. Congenital anomalies have been reported; however, causal relationship with aripiprazole could not be established.</p> <p>Neonates exposed to antipsychotics (including aripiprazole) during the third trimester of pregnancy are at risk of adverse reactions including extrapyramidal and/or withdrawal symptoms that may vary in severity and duration following delivery. There have been reports of agitation, hypertonia, hypotonia, tremor, somnolence, respiratory distress, or feeding disorder. Consequently, newborns should be monitored carefully.</p> <p>Aripiprazole is excreted in human breast milk. Patients should be advised not to breast feed if they are taking aripiprazole.</p>
Safety in paediatrics	Younger patients are at increased risk of experiencing adverse events associated with aripiprazole. Therefore, aripiprazole is not recommended for use in children and adolescents below 13 years of age

VI.2.5 Summary of risk minimisation measures by safety concern

All medicines have a Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) which provides physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals with details on how to use the medicine, the risks and recommendations for minimising them. An abbreviated version of this in lay language is provided in the form of the package leaflet (PL). The measures in these documents are known as routine risk minimisation measures.

The additional risk minimisation measures are for the following risks:

Use in adolescents 13 years and older for bipolar I disorder with special attention to weight gain, extrapyramidal symptoms, somnolence and fatigue

Risk minimisation measure(s)
Objective and rationale
<p>This measure will enable the HCP to understand what /.../ is used for, be aware of important risks of weight gain, extrapyramidal symptoms, somnolence and fatigue in particular in adolescents 13 years and older and how these risks should be mitigated and managed ; to understand what other tools are available to communicate and remind patients of these risks.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary description of main additional risk minimisation measures<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <product name> is associated with risks of weight gain, extrapyramidal symptoms, somnolence and fatigue in adolescents 13 ywears and older. It is therefore of great importance to adhere to the advice given in the product information.

Risk minimisation measure(s)

Weight gain, extrapyramidal symptoms, somnolence and fatigue

Healthcare Professional and patient education

Objective and rationale

Patients and HCPs to understand risks of weight gain, extrapyramidal symptoms, somnolence and fatigue in adolescents 13 years and older and the procedures related to the appropriate management of this risk to minimise its occurrence and its severity.

Proposed actions:

- HCP educational material to be provided to prescribing physicians and pharmacists including advice on:
 - /.../ therapeutic indications
 - the populations in which /.../ should be used
 - the recommended posology (10mg/day for the paediatric population)
 - the safety and tolerability profile of /.../ in particular at doses higher than the recommended and
 - the communication of these risks to the patients and caregivers
- Patient/caregivers brochure will have the following aims:
 - familiarisation with /.../ (why and how it is used)
 - education of patients that /.../ should not be used below 13 years of age
 - instructions on the recommended dosages
 - information on the safety and tolerability profile of aripiprazole
 - familiarisation with the symptoms that might be encountered

VI.2.6 Planned post authorisation development plan

No post-authorisation studies have been imposed or are planned.

VI.2.7 Summary of changes to the Risk Management Plan over time

Not applicable.